

AMENDMENTS

In the claims

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently amended) A picture processing method comprising the steps of:  
preparing a in advance a non-Huber function picture energy function ~~in advance~~;  
~~preparing an enlarged~~ enlarging an input picture;  
calculating gradient values of ~~the~~ said energy function ~~in~~ for a pixel in the enlarged picture;  
adding together a sum of the gradient values of said energy function and a value not dependent on the input picture to said pixel; and  
updating the resulting value of said pixel for picture quality adjustment.
2. (Original) The picture processing method according to claim 1 wherein the updating processing of the pixel value is repeated a plurality of number of times.
3. (Currently amended) The picture processing method according to claim 1 wherein said value not dependent on the input picture is ~~found~~ determined in advance from a plurality of pixels.
4. (Currently amended) A picture processing method comprising the steps of:  
preparing an in advance a non-Huber function ~~energy function of a picture~~ energy function varied depending on an input picture;  
~~preparing an enlarged~~ enlarging the input picture;  
calculating a value which decreases ~~the~~ said energy function ~~in~~ for a pixel of the enlarged picture;  
adding said energy decreasing value to said pixel; and  
updating the resulting value of said pixel for picture quality adjustment.
5. (Original) The picture processing method according to claim 4 wherein the energy function of the picture varied depending on the input picture is the sum total of the pixel energies changed with pixel values of plural pixels in the vicinity of each

pixel.

6. (Original) The picture processing method according to claim 4 wherein the energy decreasing value is a product of a gradient value of the energy function in the pixel of the enlarged picture with the value not dependent on the input picture.

7. (Original) The picture processing method according to claim 4 wherein the updating processing of the pixel value is repeated a plurality of number of times.

8. (Currently amended) A picture processing method comprising the steps of:  
a first step of preparing ~~an~~ in advance a non-Huber function picture energy function and preparing an enlarged ~~enlarging an~~ input picture;  
a second step of calculating a value which decreases ~~the~~ said energy function ~~in~~ for a pixel in ~~said~~ the enlarged picture; and  
a third step of adding said energy decreasing value to said pixel;  
said second to third steps being repeated a pre-set number of times.

9. (Currently amended) A picture processing apparatus comprising:  
holding means for holding ~~an~~ a non-Huber function picture ~~an~~ energy function ~~of a picture~~ prepared in advance;  
enlarging means for enlarging an input picture;  
calculating means for calculating ~~a gradient value~~ values of said energy function ~~in~~ for a pixel in ~~said~~ the enlarged picture; and  
updating means for adding to said pixel a product of a ~~the~~ gradient value values of ~~the~~ said energy function with a value not dependent on the input picture and for updating the resulting value of said pixel.

10. (Original) The picture processing apparatus according to claim 9 wherein the calculating processing by said calculating means and the updating processing by said updating means are repeated a plurality of number of times.

11. (Original) The picture processing apparatus according to claim 9 wherein said value not dependent on the input picture is found in advance from a plurality of pixels.

12. (Currently amended) A picture processing apparatus comprising:  
holding means for holding a non-Huber function picture ~~previously prepared~~ energy function prepared in advance ~~of a picture~~ varied depending on an input picture;  
enlarging means for enlarging ~~said~~ the input picture;  
calculating means for calculating an energy decreasing value ~~in~~ for a pixel in the enlarged picture; and  
updating means for adding said energy decreasing value to said pixel and for updating the resulting pixel value.

13. (Original) The picture processing apparatus according to claim 12 wherein  
said holding means holds the sum total of pixel energies varied depending on pixel values of plural pixels in the vicinity of each pixel as a function of the energy of the picture varied depending on said input picture.

14. (Original) The picture processing apparatus according to claim 12 wherein  
said updating means adds a product of a gradient value of said energy function in a pixel in the enlarged picture with a value not dependent on the input picture as said energy decreasing value to said pixel.

15. (Original) The picture processing apparatus according to claim 12 wherein  
said calculating operation by said calculating means and said updating operation by said updating means are repeated a plurality of number of times.

16. (Currently amended) A picture processing apparatus comprising:  
holding means for holding ~~an~~ a non-Huber function picture ~~an~~ energy function ~~of a picture~~ prepared in advance;  
enlarging means for enlarging an input picture;  
calculating means for calculating an energy decreasing value ~~in~~ for a pixel of the picture enlarged by said enlarging means; and  
updating means for adding said energy decreasing value to said pixel to update the pixel value;  
said calculation operation by said calculating means and the updating operation by said updating means being repeated a pre-set number of times.